

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**RI Department of Labor & Training**

**March 7, 2007**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Kitchen at 8:04 a.m. Members present included Paul Harden, Frank Sullivan, Pat Talin, Ernie Vergano, and Richard Westlake. Members absent were Paul Ouellette. Also present were WPGRI Executive Director Michael Koback, and WPGRI staff Carlos Ribeiro and Dottie Miller.

### **Minutes of January 4, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting**

The Committee reviewed the minutes as presented. Steve Kitchen noted two spelling errors for corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Pat Talin. Richard Westlake seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

#### **WIA Reauthorization:**

Chairman Kitchen stated that the \$300 million in WIA funding rescissions had been removed and that he was optimistic that WIA Reauthorization would be given top priority in the coming year. He added that the reauthorization had been discussed at the NAWB

conference where there was much interest in the language of the Senate version of the bill that supported the LWIBS.

#### **NAWB Conference:**

Chairman Kitchin stated that he had attended the 2007 National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in Washington D C along with board member Paul Ouellette and staff members Mike Koback and Dottie Miller. He reported that the theme focused on “A Vision for a New Economy” with a focus on the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development ( WIRED) initiative and themes such as talent development. He added that there was new leadership for the NAWB organization and that overall he felt the conference was one of the better ones he had attended.

#### **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

##### **GWBRI Update:**

Executive Director Koback reported that the GWBRI had several projects underway at this time that had resulted in a heavy workload. He stated that the Strategic Planning process was a major project that would eventually lead to the drafting of the RI's Comprehensive Workforce Plan. He explained that the process involved soliciting bids for a facilitator to manage the entire process and that the GWB Planning & Evaluation Committee selected the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) as the facilitator. He added that in the interim, the SWIO was drafting the RI Two-Year State plan that was

due in May, for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

Mike went on to say that the DLT was working on submitting two WIRED grants and that discussions were underway to define the regions involved. He explained that one application would focus on the long term care industry, led by Quality Partners and that the second application would center around the Biotech industry to build on the partnership structure that was developed under the H-1B grant. He added that the Region 1 DOL office encouraged RI to submit applications in this round.

#### **Quarterly Budget Report,**

Mike Koback stated that due to staffing shortages he was not able to prepare the budget. He added that he hoped a budget would be completed for the board meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Youth Council**

Frank Sullivan reported that the review and rating process of the youth program Request For Proposals was complete and that he had the results for the committee to review. Steve Kitchen recused himself from the conversation due to a concern that NEIT may be involved in some of the youth programs being considered for funding. Frank then asked Carlos Ribeiro to present the report. Carlos reported on the list of proposals submitted and outlined the

types of services proposed that were being recommended for funding. He stated that the recommendation included two Component Proposals for a maximum of \$200,000; four programs for the traditional WIA programs for a maximum total of \$900,000 and six All Youth non-WIA programs for a maximum total of \$610,000.

A motion was made by Pat Talin to approve funding as presented for the proposed youth programs that included the WIA programs, the Component Programs and the All Youth Programs subject to further negotiations to reduce costs where possible. Ernie Vergano seconded the motion. The motion was called, Steve Kitchin abstained, the motion passed.

#### **Board Development Committee**

Chairman Paul Ouellette stated that he was still working with Mike Koback on filling the Board vacancies. He added that questions were submitted to the Governor's office seeking guidance on several positions. Paul asked Mike Koback about the DLT Title One position and the letter from the DEA nominating Joan D'Agostino. Mike stated that the Governor's office was slow to return information at this time as the budget and other issues were "front burner" issues. He stated he would continue to pursue them for information. Paul requested a subsequent Board Development meeting be scheduled for March 30 to continue working on the vacancies.

#### **Program Quality and Performance Committee**

Committee Chair Richard Westlake reported that the committee met at the Pawtucket netWORIKri Center adding that he felt that seeing the services delivered directly at the site was a valuable experience for the members. He stated that he was concerned about the lack of wage information for the people who exit training successfully and find out of state employment. He explained that the WRIS system was designed to allow access to wage records across state boundaries. He discussed the problems and the concerns DLT has with the WRIS agreement with DOL. He stated that the unfortunate result was that our performance would suffer irreparably without the information as the data could not be altered in the future. He noted that on average an estimated 25% or more of the population commuted across state lines. He added that only 25 states had signed on to the WRIS Contract and most were large states that had minimal need to access out of state information. Mike Koback stated that he was discussing the matter with the Providence/Cranston WIB and the Director of DLT.

Ernie Vergano stated that the board needed to be informed of the matter. The members discussed drafting a letter to the DOL from the WIB / WPGRI board stating its concerns about the impact on performance with copies forwarded to the Governor's office and the DLT Director's office.

### **Program Development Committee**

Paul Harden stated that the committee met and discussed the progress of the ITA and OJT Programs. He added that the committee

thoroughly reviewed the types of training accessed through ITAs. He stated that the OJT Program continued placing participants in high wage jobs.

Paul added that the H-1B Biotech Grant was also discussed noting that the grant funds for training were nearly depleted.

**Old Business:**

**None**

**New Business**

**None**

**Executive Session**

At the request of Director Koback, the committee went into executive session at 9:41 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Miller

Workforce Partnership of Greater RI